

Metric modification

Sept. 22 is deadline for comments on **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF)** proposal to modify the "completeness of conversion" provision relating to metric sizes for distilled spirits by adding a state-by-state provision. Several states have laws or regulations that, if not changed, would prevent the sale of liquor in some metric size bottles in those states.

Instead of requiring that conversion to metrication be done on a nationwide basis, regulation would require that conversion be complete for all liquor within each state. Once a bottler converts a given size & brand to a corresponding metric size for distribution to a particular state, he could not continue or revert to bottling that liquor in the US size for distribution to the same state. He could, however, continue to bottle the US size of that product for distribution to other states—if they have not gone to metric sizes.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 23, page 35531. Send comments to Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, Washington, DC 20226.

Wine & liquor wrappers

Sept. 27 is deadline for comments on **Treasury Dept.'s Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms' (BATF)** proposal to let liquor manufacturers put certain information on wrappers of individual cartons of wine & distilled spirits (without listing everything that is on the bottles). An example of an individual carton is a glittery Christmas-season carton.

Present regulations permit only the brand name & name & address of the bottler or importer to appear on such wrappers—unless the wrappers contain all the mandatory information that appears on the bottles themselves. Mandatory information includes proof, age & net contents of the product.

Proposal is the result of a petition by Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S. (DISCUS), the trade association.

Although BATF believes that other advertising would probably be added to the cartons, consumers would not be misled, "since regulations will retain existing provisions prohibiting statements or information on cartons or coverings which are false or create a misleading impression."

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 26, page 36029. Send comments to Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, Washington, DC 20226, (Attn: Chief, Regulations & Procedures Div.).

Standards

POTATO CHIPS—Feb. 1, 1977 is deadline for comments on **Agriculture Dept.'s** proposal to establish, for the first time, grade standards for potatoes used in potato chips. Proposed standard would not apply to the potato chips consumers buy in stores but would provide a uniform method of determining chipping quality of potatoes. Under the proposal, there would be 2 grades of potatoes & test procedures for determining weight & fry color of the potatoes. Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 6, page 32896. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Agriculture Dept., Washington, DC 20250.

CANNED FRUITS & FRUIT JUICES—**Food & Drug Administration (FDA)** is clarifying definitions for canned fruits & fruit juices & standards of identity for canned peaches, apricots, pears, fruit cocktail, plums & figs. Amendments include (1) labeling changes for irregularly shaped fruit; (2) optional names for fruit cocktail; & (3) procedures for determining compliance for drained weight. Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 6, page 32886.

Participating in FDA hearings

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has amended its regulations to promote public participation in formal hearings. These hearings, which are announced in the *Federal Register* &, on a selective basis, noted in **CONSUMER REGISTER**, cover a wide area of subjects that affect consumers. For example, FDA has conducted hearings on such subjects as special dietary foods & tolerances for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in paper food-packaging material.

New regulations tell how participants can request hearing date changes & extra time for filing documents. New regulations also point out what information FDA does not provide, such as legal advice to individuals concerning participation in the hearings.

FDA's Associate Commissioner for Compliance (5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; telephone: 301-443-1753) has been designated as the person to contact to answer questions about hearings.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 5, page 32738.

... & possible help in participating

Oct. 25 is deadline for comments on **Food & Drug Administration's (FDA)** advance notice of proposed rulemaking on paying fees to lawyers who represent public interest groups & consumer groups that participate in regulatory proceedings before FDA.

Proposal is based on a petition by Consumers Union asking that a policy be established to pay legal fees.

Before a policy to pay such fees is established, FDA would like to receive comments on issues such as the following:

- In what types of proceedings, if any, should attorney fees & other assistance be provided?
- How should financial eligibility be determined?
- How much should FDA spend on such fees & where should the money come from?
- How can FDA select from among several groups claiming to represent the public interest & asking for assistance in the same proceedings?

FDA points out that it already gives some assistance to consumer representatives on many advisory committees. These representatives receive travel & per diem expenses.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 25, page 35855. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Food & Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Meetings & hearings

• **FEDERAL REGISTER BRIEFINGS**—**Office of the Federal Register** announces 2 briefings in Kansas City, MO. Subject is "The Federal Register—What It Is & How To Use It":

9:45 a.m. Sept. 28 & 29
Room 140 Federal Bldg.
601 E. 12th St.
Kansas City, MO

Seating is limited & reservations are required. To reserve, contact Doris Huntington, Federal Information Center, Room 135 Federal Bldg., 601 E. 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64106; telephone 816-374-2466.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 30, page 36546.

• **FOOD ADVERTISING**—**Federal Trade Commission**

(FTC has extended the deadline for witnesses to notify FTC that they want to testify at the Nov. 15 hearing, in Washington, DC. New deadline is Oct. 25 (instead of Sept. 21). Notify Lois Dimore, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580; telephone: 202-724-1489. Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 24, page 35725.

• **CARE LABELING—Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** announces public hearings on proposed revised regulation on care labeling of textile products & leather wearing apparel:

9:30 a.m., Nov. 8
Room 332, Federal Trade Commission Bldg.
Pennsylvania Ave. at 6th St. NW
Washington, DC 20580

To speak, call or write Cynthia S. Lamb, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580; telephone: 202-724-1566. Deadline is Oct. 15.

9:30 a.m., Jan. 10, 1977
Room 13209, Federal Bldg.
11000 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90024

(To speak, call or write Helen T. Sierichs, Federal Trade Commission, 13209 Federal Bldg, 11000 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90024; telephone: 213-824-7575, ext. 234. Deadline is Dec. 20.

In addition, comments are due on FTC's final notice on proposed rulemaking on care labeling by Sept. 24.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 25, page 35863. Send comments to John A. Gray, Presiding Officer, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580. Identify as "Care Labeling Comments."

Trade associations

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has issued an advisory opinion that a trade association may deny membership for failure to meet reasonable qualifications, but may not deny membership to a potential member if to do so would unreasonably restrain interstate or foreign trade or commerce.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 16, page 34594.

Diet pills

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has denied a hearing & has refused to approve the new drug applications for Dexamyl liquid, tablets & capsules (diet pills).

In *Federal Register*: Aug. 8, 1970, FDA issued a statement of policy regarding drugs containing amphetamines, (including dextroamphetamine) after evaluating findings of the **National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Drug Efficacy Study Group (NAS/NRC)**. Study found that this class of drugs:

- Had a generally short term effect on loss of appetite.
- There was no evidence that the drugs altered the natural course of obesity.
- These drugs had a significant potential for abuse.

FDA refused the new drug application based on findings that there is a lack of substantial evidence that Dexamyl products have the effects they are represented to have under the conditions of use recommended, suggested or prescribed in their labeling. FDA's order became effective Sept. 3, 1976.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 24, page 35741.

Meat for pet food

Agriculture Dept. has withdrawn the proposed regulation to permit the importation of undenatured, inedible meat & meat products because of indications that sufficient inedible meat & meat products suitable for use by the pet food industry are now readily available in the US.

Agriculture is afraid that the "inedible" meat might be bootlegged for hamburger & other food for human consumption.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 27, page 36215.

This listing, prepared by Marion Q. Ciacio, is intended only as summary coverage of selected *Federal Register* items deemed of particular interest to consumers, & it does not affect the legal status or effect of any document required or authorized to be published pursuant to Section 5 of Federal Register Act as amended, 44 U.S.C. 1505. *Federal Register* is published Monday through Friday (except Federal Government holidays) by **Office of the Federal Register, National Archives & Records Service, General Services Administration**. Subscription is \$5 a month or \$50 a year & may be ordered from **Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office**, Washington, DC 20402. Superintendent also sells copies of *Federal Register* for 75¢ each. Free copies of *Federal Register* may be available in libraries.

For you

These forms are for you to use, if you wish, in commenting on any Federal Agency proposal summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER. Of course, if you cannot get your comments on the front & back of a form, feel free to continue your comments on additional paper.

Send comment forms to addresses listed in the summaries.

CONSUMER NEWS is publishing these forms in cooperation with **Food & Drug Administration (FDA)**.

Rate Register

Planes

- Environmental Defense Fund has asked the **Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)** to forbid British Airways & Air France from advertising that flying on the Concorde SST will eliminate "jet lag." CAB denied the petition because the organization failed to present enough factual evidence to support its position.

- **Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)** has allowed a 1.6% increase in air fares on flights between New York & San Juan, PR. Airlines affected are American & Eastern.

Trains

- Amtrak's 2 summer experimental trains—New York-Newport News "Colonial" & New York-Savannah "Palmetto"—will be extended indefinitely. "Colonial" round-trip excursion fare permits a passenger to save 25% off the regular round-trip fare. Round-trip excursion ticket may be used any day of the week & is good for 15 days. Excursion fare also applies to the Palmetto for travel north of Richmond, VA. It does not apply on either train locally between New York & Washington, where Amtrak's off-peak excursion fares are in effect.

- The nation's next intercity passenger rail service will be an experimental route between Seattle & Salt Lake City via Boise, ID & Ogden, UT. This daily Amtrak train is expected to begin operating in spring 1977.

Intermodal

New facility adjacent to
(Continued next page)

Clip this form, fill in blanks, write your comments & mail to agency noted in CONSUMER REGISTER item.

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Baltimore-Washington International Airport in Maryland will consist of a rail station & associated facilities suitable for the transfer of passengers between airline, train & highway. In addition to \$1.5 million committed the project by Amtrak, Maryland Department of Transportation will provide the land, a parking lot, access roads & shuttle bus service between the new rail terminal & the airport. Maryland will also be providing a passenger lounge in the airport terminal building & baggage checking facilities.

